

Kentucky Environmental Education Council

Winter Meeting January 25, 2006

**Berry Hill
Frankfort, KY**

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Horace Brown, Frances Carter, Robin Chandler, Wade Helm, Yvonne Meichtry, Evelyn Morgan,

Members not present: Greg Higdon, Jeff Hohman, Kurt Mason,

Staff: Jane Eller, John LeFevre

Mr. Brown, the Council chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes - Mr. Helm moved to approve the minutes from the fall meeting. Ms. Carter seconded the motion and the fall council minutes were approved. All members of the quorum were in favor.

Election of Officers - Mr. Helm moved to reappoint Horace Brown as Chair and Kurt Mason as Vice Chair of the Council. Frances Carter seconded the motion and all members of the quorum were in favor.

Council Appointments - Ms. Eller notified Council members that each of their terms ends this year. Mr. Brown recommended that Council members express whether or not they would want to be reappointed for a new term with the Council. Mr. Brown, Ms. Carter, Ms. Meichtry, and Ms. Morgan expressed interest in being reappointed. Ms. Chandler notified Council members that since taking on new duties with the Education Cabinet that she would like someone other than her to serve on the Council that represents the Social Studies Curriculum. Mr. Helm was undecided and expressed that he needed more time to make the decision. Ms. Eller also notified Council members that she can make recommendations to the secretary's office for appointments, but that is not necessarily a determining factor in who will be reappointed.

Budget & PRIDE Fund - Ms. Eller explained to Council members that the new budget proposed by the Governor adversely affects the Council. The proposed budget includes the removal of \$18 million from the PRIDE fund (HB-174). Currently, the Council receives interest from the bond fund. If the proposed \$18 million was removed from the PRIDE fund it would cut the interest received by nearly half or \$500,000. Ms. Eller will discuss and explore agency options with the legislative liaison in the education cabinet.

Ms. Eller also notified members that the placement of the agency's salaries into the general fund was not included in this year's budget proposal.

KUPEE – Ms. Eller explained that the interest from the PRIDE fund was being used this year at the request of Secretary Fox for job imbedded professional development by the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education. She notified members that the council had received all memorandums of agreement proposals from the KUPEE members and that the review committee had identified some revisions that some KUPEE members needed to change in their proposals.

Ms. Eller asked for the Council to rule on whether or not indirect costs should be included for grants given by the Council to universities. Ms. Morgan moved that the Council allow for up to 8% of each grant given to universities be used for indirect costs. Mr. Helm seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously for the motion with one recusal from Ms. Meichtry.

EE Endorsement - Ms. Eller was very pleased to announce that four state universities were now offering the endorsement in environmental education. Schools now offering the endorsement are Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, and Western Kentucky University.

Green and Healthy Schools Project – Ms. Eller said this project has turned out to be much bigger than she originally anticipated and because of this, the Council has decided to hire Laura Lang as a seasonal employee to complete the program and have it ready by this spring. Each school that participates in the program will be assigned both a business partner and a natural resource partner to help them with the various inventories.

Ms. Eller informed members that the New Schools portion of the Green and Healthy Schools programming is progressing, but will be completed at a later date than the existing school curriculum.

KAEE - Ms. Eller was also pleased to announce that KAEE has doubled its membership by holding workshops on grant writing and on outdoor classroom development. KAEE used Council grant monies for this very successful endeavor.

Nonformal Certification – Ms. Eller invited Council members to attend the certification graduation ceremony on February 22, in Elizabethtown. She said we would probably graduate about 35 members in the 2005 class which would bring us to a total of 70. Registration for the 2006 class is continuing. We hope to hold it to no more than 20.

CWEP - Ms. Eller told Council members that The Commonwealth Water Education Project was nearing its kickoff and that they will see a series of public service announcements about the project this year. In addition, KET will be releasing a documentary on water education that will air on its network.

Ms. Eller also announced that the Council had received a \$120,000 grant from the Kentucky Division of Water that will be used in conjunction with CWEP to increase the frequency of public service announcements in the upper portion of the Cumberland River Basin.

Mr. Brown asked if there was other old or new business. There being none, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on April 26, 2006.

Approved
Wm. Horace Brown, Chair

Date

Respectfully Submitted
Jane W. Eller
Executive Director

Date